



April 2016 Monthly Veterans' Newsletter

This Veterans Newsletter is compiled and provided by the Seminole County Veteran's Services Office. Its intent is to keep Seminole County Veterans informed about their rights, benefits, and news of interest. It is non-political and, except where noted, all articles are excerpted from outside sources. Local events honoring/supporting Veterans will be included as made available. You are encouraged to provide feedback and recommendations, as this is your Newsletter. Together with my small Team, I hope you find it both valuable and interesting.

Ed Burford, Seminole County Veterans Services Officer

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1. **Vietnam Traveling Wall**, *Ed sends*, The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall will be coming to the City of Longwood, FL, in June 2016. The dates for the Wall appearance will be from 8-12 June 2016. The official opening ceremony will on June 9, 2016, at 9:00 am. The location for this Event will be at Reiter Park, 311 Warren Avenue, Longwood, FL. Reiter Park is located behind South Seminole Hospital on SR-434 in Longwood. Daily ceremonies will begin at 9:00 daily until Sunday, June 12, 2016, whereas there will be a formal Closing Ceremony starting at 2:00 pm. The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall is a 3/5 scale replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall located in Washington, DC. This Traveling Memorial stands as a reminder of the great sacrifices made during the Vietnam War. Its main purpose is helping heal and rekindle friendships and to allow Veterans and individuals alike to visit loved ones whose names appear on the Wall in their hometown who otherwise may not be able to make the trip to Washington, DC. This will be your opportunity to join us in paying tribute to the young men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice in defending our great nation for the freedoms we enjoy today. Put this Event on your calendar because this is one Event you will not want to miss. For more information contact, Johnnie Richardson, Chairman, Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall - Project Longwood, j.richardson50@aol.com
2. **Vietnam Resource Site**, *Ed sends*, This may be the best search list ever compiled about the Vietnam War. This simply has to be shared with anyone who served in Vietnam, knew someone who served in Vietnam, or is just a Vietnam history buff. It would take

months to look at everything this site offers. Somebody went to a lot of effort on this site... It's one of the most complete to date... Feel free to pass it along to anyone you think might be interested...

<http://www.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>

3. **Remembering Black April**, *Ed sends*, The Vietnamese in America refer to the fall of Saigon as Black April. The Vietnam Unforgettable Memories Foundation requests the pleasure of your company at the Commemoration of the Vietnamese-American Veterans of the Vietnam War day & Proclamation & Black Friday; Remembering the Fall of Saigon, Saturday, April 30, 2016, 0900 – 1030 hours, Central Florida Veterans' Memorial Park, 2380 Lake Baldwin Lane, Orlando, FL 32814. For more information call 407-489-2936, for more information go to <https://www.facebook.com/Vn3kt/>

4. **The People Who Built The Atomic Bomb**, NEOGov, March 28, 2016, A new website assembles thousands of biographies and oral histories from the Manhattan Project. [Read more.](#)

5. **Rebuilding For Hero's**, *Ed sends*, *Rebuilding Together of Central Florida, Inc.* (d/b/a: Rebuilding Together Orlando), was incorporated in 2002 and is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt not-for-profit organization that has a mission to "bring volunteers and communities together to improve the homes and lives of homeowners in need". Rebuilding Together Orlando (RTO) will host its *1st REBUILDING FOR HEROES* Charity Golf Tournament to benefit the growing number of disabled & non-disabled veteran home repairs. We are asking for your support of our efforts to restore the homes of those who served our country by becoming a significant sponsor of our golf tournament on Friday, May 6, 2016, 9:00am at Orange County National Golf Center & Lodge located at 16301 Phil Ritson Way, Winter Garden, FL. 34787. [Read more.](#)

6. **Free Legal Advice Clinic for Veterans in Seminole County**, *Ed sends*, I wanted to give you the good news that a partnership with the Seminole County Bar Association and the Seminole County Public Library has started, to hold Free legal advice clinics at the public library located in Casselberry. It begins on **May 12, 2016** and continue the 2nd Thursday of each month from 1 pm to 5 pm. The Casselberry library is the main headquarters for all the libraries in Seminole County. It is a great partnership because Veterans will have an opportunity to relax at the library and browse through the books or use the free Wi-Fi while they wait their turn to see the volunteer or staff attorney. Advice concerning housing and family law will be initially provided. For more information contact Kayla Meyer, Seminole County Legal Aid, Inc., 407-834-1660 ext. 110, or email Coordinator@scbalas.com. Thank you Seminole County Bar Association for your support to our Veterans.

7. **Free Landlord/Tenant Legal Assistance**, *Ed sends*, Seminole County Bar Association Legal Aid Society is presenting Free Landlord/Tenant Legal Assistance to low income residents of Seminole County. It will be available the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month. Please contact Legal Aid to set an appointment at 407-834-1660. This is available to all low income residents of Seminole County.
8. **Veterans' Update, Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs**
April 14, 2016, Ed Sends

Here is a quick summary of veteran-related legislation resulting from the 2016 Florida Legislative Session, which began Jan. 12, 2016 and ended March 11, 2016. All but two of the bills we are monitoring have been signed.

Florida House of Representatives

- **HB 439 - Relating to Mental Health Services in Criminal Justice System** (Rep. McBurney) - Expands eligibility for military veterans & servicemembers for certain programs. Expanding the definition of "veteran," for the purpose of eligibility for veterans' court, to include veterans who were discharged or released under a general discharge. Effective Date: July 1, 2016. – **Approved by Governor Scott on 3/25/16.**
- **HB 799 - Relating to Out-of-State Fee Waivers for Active Duty Service Members** (Rep. Avila) – Provides that active duty members of Armed Forces of U.S. residing or stationed outside of this state may receive out-of-state fee waivers; requires tuition & fees charged to such students to be below specified amount & for annual report of all out-of-state fee waivers for such individuals. Effective Date: July 1, 2016. – **Approved by Governor Scott on 3/25/16.**
- **HB 821 - Relating to Reimbursement of Assessments** (Rep. Rooney) - Prohibits agent or attorney representing claimant from directly or indirectly requesting, receiving, or obtaining reimbursement from claimant for assessments charged to agent or attorney by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; provides penalties. Effective Date: July 1, 2016. – **Approved by Governor Scott on 4/14/16.**
- **HB 941 - Relating to Department of Health** (Rep. Gonzales) - Creating & revising reporting requirements for specified research programs; providing licensing requirements for military members & their spouses; revising provisions relating to regulatory activities of DOH & certain boards; revising education requirements for certain health professions to qualify for license renewal. Effective Date: July 1, 2016. – **Approved by Governor Scott on 4/14/16.**
- **HB 1157 - Relating to Postsecondary Education for Veterans** (Rep. Raburn) - Directs DOE to award postsecondary course credit for specified training, education, examinations & tests; revises residency requirement for certain tuition waivers for

recipients of specified military decorations; provides that specified programs & test scores meet certain educator certification requirements. Effective Date: July 1, 2016. - **Approved by Governor Scott on 3/25/16.**

- **HB 1219 - Relating to Veterans' Employment** (Rep. Raburn) - Requires state agencies, & authorizes political subdivisions of state, to develop & implement veterans' recruitment plan; requires DMS to collect specified data & include such data in its annual workforce report & on its website; provides applicability. Effective Date: October 1, 2016. – **Approved by Governor Scott on 3/24/16.**
- **HB 7023 - Relating to Ad Valorem Tax Exemption for Deployed Servicemembers** (Rep. Trumbull, Finance and Tax Committee) - Expands military operations that qualify certain servicemembers who receive a homestead exemption & were deployed during previous calendar year to receive additional ad valorem tax exemption on that homestead property; provides procedures for grant of exemption. Effective Date: upon becoming a law. (See SB 160.) – **Approved by Governor Scott on 3/8/16.**
- **HB 7099 - Relating to Taxation** - Provides a sales tax exemption for sales of food and drink by veterans' organizations to members of veterans' organizations. Provides a three-day "back-to-school" sales tax holiday from August 5, 2016, to August 7, 2016, for clothing and footwear costing \$60 or less, and school supplies costing less than \$15. Effective Date: 7/1/2016. - **Approved by Governor Scott on 4/13/16.**

Florida Senate

- **SB 12 - Relating to Mental Health and Substance Abuse** (Sen. Garcia) - Including services provided to treatment-based mental health programs within case management funded from state revenues as an element of the state courts system; requiring assessment findings to be provided to the plan that is financially responsible for a child's care in residential treatment under certain circumstances; specifying certain persons who are prohibited from being appointed as a person's guardian advocate; authorizing county or circuit courts to enter ex parte orders for involuntary examinations; requiring the Department of Children and Families to create a workgroup on the use of advance directives for substance use disorders, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2016. Sent to Governor Scott for signature on 4/1/16. He has until 4/16/16 to take action.
- **SB 88 - Relating to Gold Star License Plates** (Sen. Simpson) - Amends s. 320.0894, F.S.; expanding certain individuals as qualified for issuance of a Gold Star license plate. Effective date 7/1/16. – **Approved by Governor Scott on 4/6/16.**
- **SB 158 - Relating to Identification Cards and Driver Licenses** (Sen. Hutson) - General Identification Cards and Driver Licenses: Providing for a person's status as a lifetime freshwater fishing, saltwater fishing, hunting, or sportsman licensee, or boater safety

identification cardholder, to be indicated on his or her identification card or driver license upon payment of an additional fee and presentation of the person's lifetime freshwater fishing, saltwater fishing, hunting, or sportsman's license, or boater safety identification card; providing a waiver of the replacement fee in certain circumstances, etc. The word "Veteran" shall be exhibited on the driver license of a veteran upon the payment of an additional \$1 fee for the license and the presentation of a copy of the person's DD Form 214, issued by the United States Department of Defense, or another acceptable form specified by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Effective Date: 7/1/2016. - **Approved by Governor Scott on 2/24/16.**

- **SB 184 - Relating to Military and Veterans Affairs** (Sen. Bean) - Requiring the application form for an original, renewal, or replacement driver license or identification card to include a voluntary checkoff authorizing veterans to request written or electronic information on federal, state, and local benefits and services for veterans; creating the Military and Overseas Voting Assistance Task Force within the Department of State; providing legislative findings regarding continuing education for veterans of the United States Armed Forces, etc. Former members of the Florida National Guard would be eligible for induction in the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame. Effective date 7/1/16. Sent to Governor Scott for signature on 4/1/16. He has until 4/14/16 to take action.
- **SB 222 - Relating to Parking for Disabled Veterans** (Sen. Detert) - Requiring the governing body of each publicly owned or publicly operated airport to grant free parking to any vehicle displaying specified license plates for disabled veterans; clarifying that such license plates, rather than "DV" license plates, are exempt from certain parking fees charged by a county, municipality, or an agency thereof, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2016. - **Approved by Governor Scott on 3/10/16.**
- **SB 626 - Relating to Consumer Credit** (Sen. Gaetz) – Authorizes the Office of Financial Regulation to deny a license or take disciplinary action against a person who violates the Military Lending Act or the regulations adopted under that act in connection with a consumer finance loan under the Florida Consumer Finance Act, etc. Effective Date: 10/3/2016. – **Approved by Governor Scott on 3/30/16.**
- **SB 666 - Relating to Voter Identification** (Sen. Legg) - Expanding the list of acceptable forms of identification for certain voter registration applicants to include veteran health identification cards, licenses to carry a concealed weapon or firearm, and certain government-issued employee identification cards, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. – **Approved by Governor Scott on 4/1/16.**
- **SB 772 - Relating to Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services** (Sen. Richter) - Requires the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to waive fees for certain business licenses and registrations to veterans, spouses of veterans, or certain business entities with majority ownership held by veterans or their spouses. This includes the

land surveying and mapping license fee, health studio registration fee, commercial telephone seller license fee, telephone salesperson license fee, interstate mover registration fee, liquefied petroleum gas license fee, pawnbroker license fee, motor vehicle repair shop registration fee, and the seller of travel registration fee. In addition, the initial license fees for certain private investigative, private security and repossession service licenses would be waived for veterans, but does not apply to spouses. This bill would also provide a process to expedite the concealed weapon firearm application process for servicemembers and veterans. Effective date 7/1/16. – **Approved by Governor Scott on 3/30/16.**

- **SB 1202 - Relating to Discounts on Public Park Entrance Fees and Transportation Fares** - Discounts on Public Park Entrance Fees and Transportation Fares; Requiring counties and municipalities to provide a partial or a full discount on park entrance fees to military members, veterans, and the spouse and parents of certain deceased military members, law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics; requiring certain regional transportation authorities to provide a partial or a full discount on fares for certain disabled veterans, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2016. – **Approved by Governor Scott on 4/6/16.**
- **SB 7016 - Relating to Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children** (Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security Committee) - Reenacts provisions of law establishing and implementing the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and provides for future legislative review and repeal of the Compact on July 1, 2019. The Compact is an agreement between states that is designed to assist member states in uniformly addressing key educational transition issues in enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility, and graduation. Effective 4/9/16. - **Approved by Governor Scott on 3/9/16.**

For more information, please contact FDVA Legislative and Cabinet Affairs Director Colleen Krepstekies at KrepstekiesC@fdva.state.fl.us or FDVA Legislative Analyst Jessica Kraynak at KraynakJ2@fdva.state.fl.us.

9. **Will You Pay More at the Commissary?** MOAA, March 25, 2016, The commissary continues to be a favorite benefit for servicemembers, retirees, wounded warriors, and survivors. Yet, every year, we find the program coming under budget scrutiny. The money required to keep commissaries operating is small in terms of the overall defense budget, but the desire to use that money elsewhere (approximately \$1.4 billion annually) is high. Last year, Congress wrote a requirement into the defense bill for the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to achieve budget-neutrality for the commissary and exchange benefits no later than March 1, 2016. Then, the Department was tasked to begin pilot projects to achieve that goal - while also maintaining current levels of patron savings and satisfaction and product quality. [Read more.](#)

- 10. Can Grandchildren Be Registered in DEERS?** Military.com, Week of April 11, 2016, In this week's "Questions and Benefits" column, a military spouse asks whether it's possible for her grandson to be able to access military benefits like healthcare. To get the full lowdown, [Read more](#).
- 11. End the 'Disabled Veterans Tax'** Military.com, Week of April 11, 2016, The American Legion is again calling on its members to voice their support for legislation that will repeal the "disabled veterans tax" that has been in place since 1999. Under current federal law, some disabled veterans still are forced to forfeit \$1 of earned retired pay for each dollar received in veterans' disability compensation. The Retired Pay Restoration Act ([H.R. 303](#) in the U.S. House of Representatives and [S. 271](#) in the Senate) would repeal the current law. Veterans are urged to contact their members of Congress and ask them to support the Retired Pay Restoration Act. Members of the Senate can be reached through the main switchboard (202-224-3121) [Read more](#).
- 12. MOAA Urges Commission to Protect Veterans Health** Care MOAA, April 8, 2016, A flurry of media reports hit the airwaves this week when veteran groups voiced concerns over a controversial proposal being considered by a special commission set up by Congress to look at how to deliver veterans' health care. The Commission on Care is tasked with examining access to VA health care and to examine strategically how best to organize the Veterans Health Administration for the next generation of veterans. The "strawman" document calls for phasing out all VA health care treatment facilities over the next 20 years, and pushing all veterans, including those who are 100 percent disabled, into the private sector for medical care. [Read more](#).
- 13. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month!** VA Press Release March 29, 2016, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) uses the term "military sexual trauma" or "MST" to refer to sexual assault or sexual harassment during military service and has services available to assist Veterans in their recovery from MST. ** Veterans can receive [free treatment](#) for mental and physical health conditions related to their experiences of MST at every VA medical facility. Veterans do not need to have documentation of their experiences and may be able to receive care even if they are not eligible for other VA services. ** Veterans can apply for [disability compensation](#) for any current difficulties that are related to their service, including difficulties related to MST. ** Both women and men can experience MST during their service. [Read more](#).
- 14. VA Call Center Helps with Adverse Credit Reporting** Military.com, Week of March 21, 2016, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has established a Community Care Call Center for veterans experiencing adverse credit reporting or debt collection resulting from inappropriately billed Choice Program claims. Veterans experiencing these

problems can call 1-877-881-7618 for assistance. VA is urging veterans to continue working with their VA primary care team to obtain necessary health care services regardless of adverse credit reporting or debt collection activity. [Read more.](#)

15. House Leader Huddles with VA Health Commission MOAA, March 25, 2016, Rep. Jeff Miller (R-Fla.), Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, met with the Commission on Care on Mar. 21 to discuss what the VA health system should look like over the next few decades. The chairman and other congressional leaders championed legislation - the Veterans' Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014, or Choice Act - establishing an independent Commission to make recommendations for needed health system reforms. Those recommendations are to be reported in June. When a commissioner voiced concern about the possibility of the report falling through the cracks, Miller assured them, "This report will not sit on the shelf." [Read more.](#)

16. Burn Pit Registry, VA Alert, April 4, 2016, Are you caring for a Veteran who deployed after 1990? They might be eligible to participate in the Burn Pit Registry. By completing an online questionnaire, Veterans and Servicemembers can use the Burn Pit Registry to report their exposures, become more aware of their health, and discuss any health concerns with a provider. Participation in the Burn Pit Registry is important. [Read more.](#)

17. The Quality of Medication Treatment for Mental Disorders in the Department of Veterans Affairs and in Private-Sector Plans, Psychiatric Services, April 1, 2016, The quality of mental health care provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was compared with care provided to a comparable population treated in the private sector. [Read more.](#)

18. VA Expands Hep-C Treatment, Military.com, Week of March 21, 2016, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that it is now able to fund care for all veterans with hepatitis C for Fiscal Year 2016 regardless of the stage of the patient's liver disease. The move follows increased funding from Congress along with reduced drug prices. Treatment priority is established for the sickest patients. [Read more.](#)

19. MOAA Testifies on Veteran Priorities MOAA, March 18, 2016 This week, MOAA Deputy Director of Government Relations Cdr. René Campos, USN (Ret), presented MOAA veterans' health and benefits priorities before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees. The hearing comes on the heels of a letter sent this week to the committees' leadership from several veteran organizations, including MOAA, urging lawmakers to work together in a bicameral, bipartisan manner to enact legislation this year to give the VA the resources it needs to complete necessary reforms. In her testimony, Campos focused on improving VA-sponsored community care, women veterans' health care, upgrades to the appeals process, and stronger financial protections for military families. [Read more.](#)

- 20. Tips and Tricks to Accessing VA Health Care** Military.com, Week of March 28, 2016, Here are several tips one veteran uses to have a good experience with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): (1) schedule your appointments first thing in the morning or right after lunch so you will be seen on time; (2) have a referral to a specialty clinic? Call that clinic yourself to schedule an appointment; (3) ask for an appointment tomorrow and see if it works; (4) use My HealtheVet secure messenger to talk with your physician; (5) choose a different VA if necessary; (6) if you need to be seen sooner than your appointment, use the VA medical center emergency room; (7) use the kiosks, and avoid the lines; and (8) prepare and double-check your list of needs with your physician.
- 21. Veterans with Epilepsy: You are not alone**, VA News Release, March 22, 2016, Over 300,000 US soldiers have been diagnosed with Traumatic Brain Injury since 2000, many at risk for epilepsy. New VHA online videos show how Vets with epilepsy are able to live full, successful lives. [Read more.](#)
- 22. VA Under Secretary Shares Priorities** Military.com, Week of April 04, 2016, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Under Secretary for Health, Dr. David Shulkin, recently spoke to the Commission on Care and shared the actions already underway to transform the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) into an integrated community care model. VA has submitted to Congress a plan to streamline and untangle our community care programs so that it can improve relationships with community providers, process and pay claims more timely and assure that veterans can see a community provider within 30 days of their referral. [Read more.](#)
- 23. Studies Find 14% of Vets Have Suicidal Thinking** Military.com, Week of April 11, 2016, During a two-year Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) study, 14 percent of veterans interviewed reported having suicidal thinking at some point during the study. The finding is based on a nationally representative sample of more than 2,000 U.S. Veterans who were surveyed twice as part of the National Health and Resilience in Veterans Study. Each time, the veterans were asked whether they had experienced suicidal thoughts in the past two weeks. They answered a host of other questions as well, enabling the researchers to obtain insights about factors associated with suicidal thinking. An abstract of the study is available - [Read more.](#)
- 24. IG Reports Detail Which VA Facilities Doctored Patient Wait-Times** Military.com, Apr 08, 2016, Two years after whistleblower revelations of manipulated appointment times at the Veterans Medical Center in Phoenix led to findings that the problem was systemic across the Veterans Affairs Department, internal investigations into the matter are finally being released. The reports, documenting the manipulation of wait-times at VA facilities across 19 states, reveal that in at least seven facilities the dates were falsified per order of supervisors, according to an article in USA Today, which acquired the documents through a Freedom of Information Act request. [Read more.](#)

- 25. [Marking 70 Years of Volunteers Serving Veterans](#)**, VA News Release, 4/12/2016, One of the most important things we give each other is our attention. VA's Volunteers have been doing this for 70 years. This week we salute and thank them for their dedication. [Read more.](#)
- 26. [TRICARE and Allergies](#)** Military.com, Week of April 04, 2016, TRICARE covers proven services and supplies needed to diagnose and treat allergies. Several types of allergic diseases or diseases worsened by allergies are: (1) hay fever; (2) asthma; (3) conjunctivitis (pink eye); (4) allergic skin conditions (hives, eczema, dermatitis); and (5) sinusitis (sinus infections). If you think you have seasonal allergies, talk to your health care provider. [Read more.](#)
- 27. [TRICARE Nurse Advice Line Open](#)** Military.com, Week of April 04, 2016, TRICARE beneficiaries can call TRICARE's Nurse Advice Line (NAL) anytime at 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273) and select option 1. The NAL gives TRICARE beneficiaries access to care, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. With just one call you can get expert advice from our team of registered nurses. They will answer your urgent care questions, give you health advice, help you find a doctor and schedule a next-day appointment at a military hospital or clinic for you if available. [Read more.](#)
- 28. [TRICARE: Nurse Advice Line for Older Adults](#)**, Military.com, Week of April 11, 2016, Are you an older adult? If so, you can call the TRICARE Nurse Advice Line (NAL) 24 hours a day. When you call the NAL, a registered nurse will help you assess if you can handle your health concern with self-care or if you need to see a medical professional. The NAL can also help you find a doctor and schedule next-day appointments at military hospitals and clinics when available. To access the NAL dial 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273) and select option 1. [Read more.](#)
- 29. [Were you exposed to burn pits while deployed](#)**, VA News Release, 03/15/2016, If you have experienced respiratory symptoms or health conditions that may be related to exposure to burn pits while deployed, you should register in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry. [Read more.](#)
- 30. [Lawmaker: Poor Wording in VA Bill Hurt Victims of Gulf War Illness](#)** Military.com, Mar 15, 2016, A lawmaker on Tuesday suggested Congress may have to redraft part of the initial legislation authorizing the Veterans Affairs Department to grant claims compensation to Persian Gulf War veterans suffering from multi-symptom ailments that make up Gulf War Illness. Responding to testimony showing the VA has denied compensation to more than 90 percent of veterans claiming Gulf War Illness, Rep. Ann McLane Kuster, D-New Hampshire, said it was not Congress' intent to require VA accept an undiagnosed multi-symptom disorder as a condition. "We created this Catch-22," Kuster said during a joint hearing of the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs and Oversight and Investigations subcommittee. "It sounds like an unintended consequence of what we were trying to do to help Gulf War veterans ... They had multi-symptoms and

we didn't have the science and the words" to properly describe what we wanted VA to do. [Read more.](#)

- 31. RAND releases results of PTSD study**, The American Legion, April 13, 2016, The RAND Corporation has released the results of a study focused on how the U.S. military is treating PTSD and depression among its personnel. The study, "Quality of Care for PTSD and Depression in the Military Health System," was commissioned by the Department of Defense's Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury. [Read more.](#)
- 32. Florida Tries to Attract Veterans** Military.com, Week of March 28, 2016, The State of Florida has launched an initiative to attract veterans from other states, especially young ones. According to the state-formed website VeteransFlorida.org, here are several reasons why veterans will like Florida; (1) there are "no taxes on personal income, military pensions, inheritance, gifts, or intangible property" for vets; (2) every Florida resident receives \$25,000 homestead property tax exemption with additional breaks for disabled veterans; (3) thanks to Florida's GI Bill, the state gives in-state tuition rates to all veterans, spouses and dependents of veterans; (4) free tuition is also an option for those who have received the Purple Heart or several other combat decorations. [Read more.](#)
- 33. Honor Flight Seeks Volunteers** Military.com, Week of March 28, 2016, For over a decade, Honor Flights have transported thousands of World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans who live all across the U.S. to Washington, D.C. The next round of Honor Flight arrivals will begin flying into D.C.-area airports in April, May and June. Honor Flight is seeking volunteers to act as airport greeters and guardians while the veterans are in Washington, D.C. Volunteer guardians need to be fit enough to walk between three to five miles a day. Honor Flight volunteer opportunities are available both during the weekend and mid-week. For more information, [visit the Central Florida Honor Flight website here.](#)
- 34. Florida Town Offers 'Hero' Parking Spots for Vets** Military.com, Week of March 21, 2016, The city of Cocoa Beach, Florida, has found a new way to honor veterans and first responders — by designating "super hero" parking spots. In Nov. 2015, local councilman and veteran Tyler Furbish proposed the idea to fellow veteran and city manager John Titkanich. Just a few days later, three of these spots were opened at City Hall. [Read more.](#)
- 35. Congress Sends Bill on Veterans Foreclosures to Obama** Sunshine State News, March 22, 2016, On Monday, the U.S. House passed the "Foreclosure Relief and Extension for Servicemembers Act of 2015" which makes it tougher to foreclose on the property of veterans. The measure moved through the House on voice vote on Monday after passing the Senate without opposition back in December. The proposal extends the "Servicemembers Civil Relief Act" (SCRA) through the end of 2017. Under the bill, eligible

veterans have more safeguards from unauthorized sale, seizure or foreclosure on their property without a court order up to a year after leaving the military. [Read more.](#)

36. Tampa Bay Rays - 2016 Military Mondays For 2016, the Rays will offer all active-duty military, retired and honorably discharged veterans **two free tickets** for all eight Monday home games and eight additional bonus dates throughout the regular season. The Rays are also extending this courtesy to dependents of military personnel including any spouse, child or widow with a valid dependent ID, as verified by ID.me, a third-party verification service. 1. Click the "Buy Tickets" button below, 2. Follow the instructions on the web page, 3. Enter the case sensitive password BJ62SC, 4. Complete your transaction and enjoy the game! [Reserve Tickets.](#)

37. VA ID Card Now Being Accepted as ID for Voting in Florida, From Mike Ertel, Seminole County Supervisor of Elections, Great news -- For several years I have lobbied our state legislature to add the Veteran's Administration ID card as an acceptable form of identification at the polls. This year the Senate and House passed the law! It's now on the governor's desk for his signature. Thank you to our local delegation for continuing to help move it forward and allow my fellow veterans greater choices! [David Simmons](#) [Jason Brodeur](#) [Scott Plakon](#) [Bob Cortes](#). Last reports that HB 1025 has been signed by Governor Scott. *Ed sends*, Thank you Mr. Ertel!

38. Disney Goes to War, MOAA, April 7, 2016, When the U.S. officially entered World War II in December 1941, Hollywood didn't hesitate to aid the effort. Every major studio did its part, but perhaps none contributed more than Walt Disney. Over the course of the war, Walt Disney Studios churned out more than 75 training films for all branches of the military, created hundreds of combat unit insignia at no cost, and produced five important anti-Nazi theatrical shorts. In addition, many Disney employees volunteered for military service or were drafted and at least five were killed serving their country. Disney, who served as a Red Cross ambulance driver in France at the end of World War I, was happy to assist - [Read more.](#)

39. Tech Tactics — 6 Steps to Protect Yourself From Ransomware, MOAA, April 7, 2016, Ransomware is a type of malware or malicious software that prevents you or your organization from being able to fully use your computer system until you pay the attackers a ransom. In February, a hospital in Los Angeles made headlines for giving in to the ransom demand of hackers who used encryption to cripple its internal computer network, including electronic patient records, for three weeks, causing it to lose patients and money. After the hackers initially demanded \$3.4 million, the hospital paid them \$17,000. [Read more.](#)

40. 5 Lessons For Vets Before You Start Your Business Military.com, Week of March 21, 2016, For years, military service has been recognized as one of the leading indicators of

entrepreneurial success. According to a report by the U.S. Small Business Administration, veterans are 45% more likely to be entrepreneurs than non-veterans, and over 13% of veterans have been self-employed in recent years. The traits and skills our nation's service members possess make them great entrepreneurs. [Read more.](#)

41. 3 Reasons Veterans Hate Networking, Military.com, March 23, 2016,



Lida Citroën

Networking is challenging for anyone. Even the most extroverted people wrestle with initiating new relationships and extracting value from their contacts. While the concept of networking may have been frowned upon in the military, in your civilian career it will be critical. Unlike our social relationships, networking should be viewed in an intentional and strategic way. If you approach networking as a focused meeting of your target audience in an authentic way in order to nurture mutually beneficial professional relationships, then networking becomes a very valuable part of your transition, and civilian career. After all, you never know who you are about to meet – that new contact could be the key that unlocks your future! [Read more.](#)

42. Orlando Hiring Fair sponsored by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Saturday, April 16, 2016 - 8:30am to 1:30pm, [Hiring Our Heroes](#), United States Army Reserve Center, 9500 Armed Forces Reserve Drive, Orlando, FL 32827, United States, See map: [Google Maps](#), Join us for a job fair for service members, veterans, and military spouses at the U.S. Army Reserve Center in Orlando. [Read more.](#)

- 43. New Online Vet Entrepreneurship Resource** Military.com, Week of March 28, 2016, The American Legion and the Veterans Business Network have teamed up to offer a great resource for service members, veterans of all eras, and their families who are planning their transition or considering starting their own business. The two online publications, A Guide for Women Veteran Entrepreneurs and Basics for Veterans are loaded with content about transitioning to civilian life, including tips for starting a business, using education benefits, transition assistance programs, and starting a civilian career. [Read more.](#)
- 44. Five Things to Take to the Career Fair** Military.com, March 30, 2016, A career fair is a great place to gather information about potential employers and make contacts that can lead to your first job. Here's some advice on how to make the most of your time. [Read more.](#)
- 45. Burning Bridges Works In War, But Not In The Workplace** Military.com, April 6, 2016, We tend to believe that the minute we get out of the service, everything you've ever lived through for the last "X" years, immediately vanishes from our existence. Some of us dream about saying things we have been holding back, but try not to act on those impulses. It's very important that you create and maintain an image of yourself that you want to professionally market. This requires that you maintain open, and frequent communication with people you've established any type of relationship with. [Read more.](#)
- 46. Veterans find challenges in nailing the right job**, Orlando Sentinel, April 12, 2016, Five years ago, the headlines on veteran unemployment were grim. "Unemployment crisis among veterans spurs call to action in Congress," read one. "Unemployment for Young Vets: 30%, and Rising," warned another. In the midst of two wars, America's veterans were in trouble at home. Today, veteran unemployment rates flirt with record lows. Even the youngest post-9-11 veterans no longer face dauntingly large gaps separating them from civilian counterparts. Yet despite the significant, sustained decline in the national veteran unemployment rate, Florida's veterans, transitioning service members and military spouses still face numerous challenges. [Read more.](#)
- 47. Finding the Best-Fit College for Troops and Vets** Military.com, Week of November 30, 2015, CollegeRecon, a virtual tool for finding the "best-fit" college for those currently serving and their families, is now available. This free online platform provides access to over 3,000 non-profit and state-operated colleges and universities. The new online tool can help anyone who is hoping to enroll in a technical or community college, or is interested in pursuing a four-year degree. It is easy to use and showcases schools throughout the country that fit each student's needs, interests, and qualifications. [Read more.](#)

48. New Education Guide for Service Members and Vets Military.com, Week of April 04, 2016, Stars and Stripes have published a revised online guide to education benefits for service members and veterans, including tips from Military.com. Contents in the guide include how to best pick a school, as well as overviews of tuition assistance and the GI Bill. [Read more.](#)

49. April History The Pony Express begins delivering the mail. (1860) Susanna Medora Salter is the first woman to be elected mayor in the nation in Argonia, Kansas. (1887) Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated. (1968) Explorers Matthew A. Henson and Robert E. Perry are the first to reach the North Pole. (1909) French explorer LaSalle reaches the Mississippi river (1691) President Abraham Lincoln is shot by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. He died the next day. (1865) The Titanic hits an iceberg in the Northern Atlantic ocean as sinks. (1912) Paul Revere makes his famous ride from Charlestown to Lexington, Ma., shouting "the Red Coats are coming" as the American Revolutionary War begins. (1775) The Vietnam War ends with the fall of Saigon (later renamed Ho Chi Minh City) (1975)

Newsletter from your local Seminole County Veterans' Services Office Staff.

Thank you for your service to our Country!

It Takes the Strength of a Warrior to Ask for Help

The journey after military service can be a difficult one. If you are Veteran in crisis or know of one who is, please call the VA's 24/7 Suicide Prevention Line at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) to speak with a trained counselor, or find a Crisis Center near you.